



the collegian GAMEDAY GUIDE

friday, september 14, 2012

K-STATE VS. NORTH TEXAS



Heisman watch: keep your eye on these running backs



Offense: Snyder 'very pleased' with progress



Defense: Wildcats look to put pressure on QB

By the numbers

John Zetmeir
staff writer

0 The number of sacks given up by the North Texas line. Even though the Mean Green do not pass the ball a lot, they have gone up against LSU, which features one of the best defensive lines in the country. North Texas brings back four starters from last year's line, and that experience has proven to be crucial for them. They have the ability both to pass block as well as open holes for the running backs. K-State must continue to put pressure on the quarterback like they did against Miami, so the Wildcats may apply a little more pressure from the linebackers.

5 The number of sacks by K-State last week against Miami. After getting no sacks in the first week, the Wildcats got after Stephen Morris to the tune of five sacks. A lot of the pressure came from the defensive line, where defensive ends Adam Davis and Meshak Williams used their speed to get around the corner to pressure the quarterback. A deciding factor in the K-State game will be which line can win the battle at the line of scrimmage. The Wildcats must use their speed like they did against Miami to get after the quarterback.

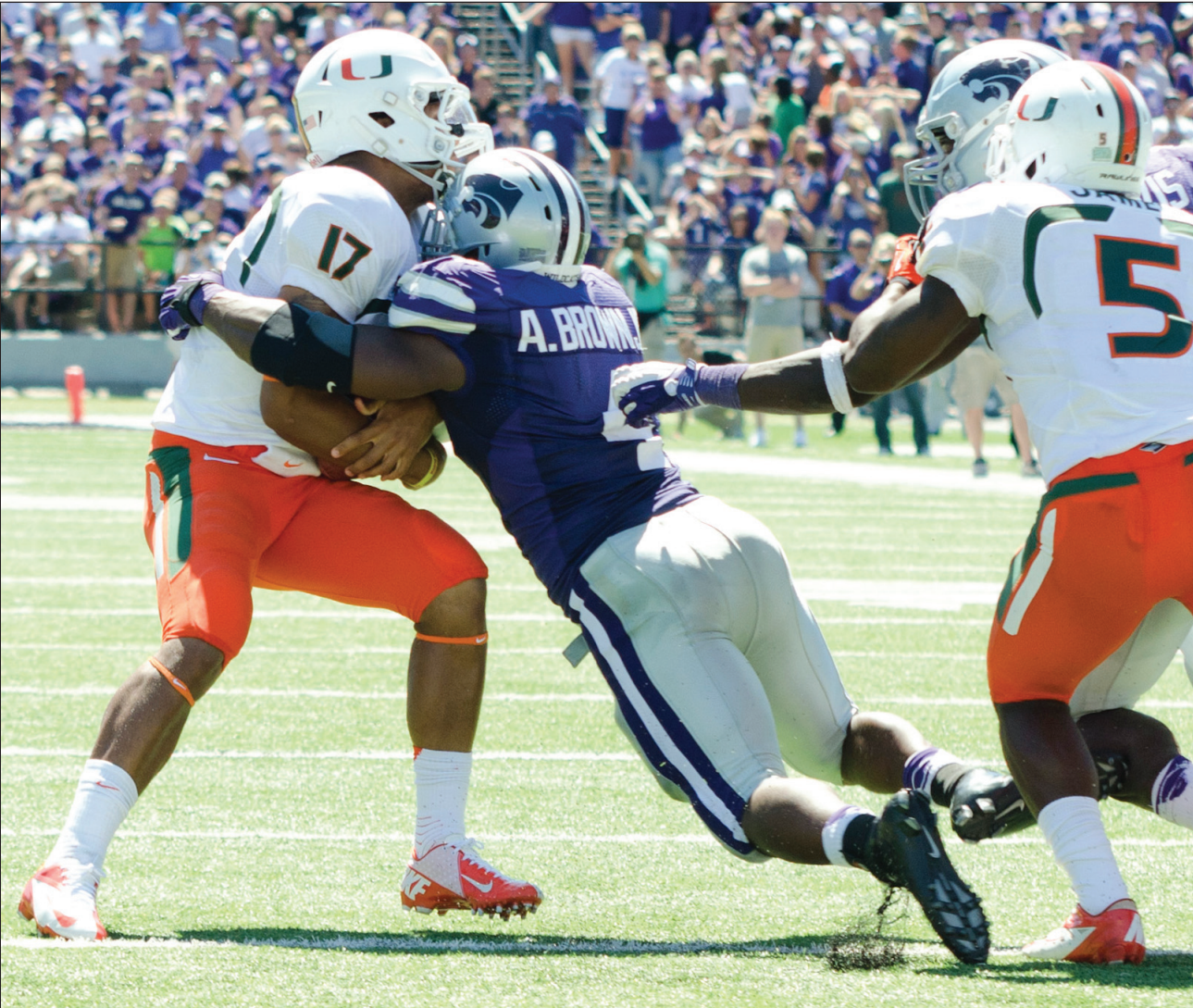
6 The ranking of the Wildcats rushing attack. It is not a secret that K-State wants to run the ball on offense. On the season, they are averaging 306 yards per game and have been able to dominate teams running the ball. With Collin Klein and John Hubert as the focal point of the rushing attack, they make things tough for defenses as they go at it different ways. Klein is a powerful runner that will run north and south and take on defenders. While Hubert can do this, he is at his best when he is getting to the outside and using his quickness to make defenders miss. If these two are rolling offensively and picking up yards, the Wildcats become nearly impossible to stop.

71.8 The percentage completion of quarterback Collin Klein. Last season, Klein only connected on 57.8 percent of his passing. While it is early, Klein has shown he has made improvements in the passing game. He has shown the ability and the confidence to throw the ball down the field, connecting on seven passes of over 20 yards in the first two games. By attempting these passes down the field, it is opening up the running game for Klein, Hubert and Angelo Pease to run the ball and forces the defenses to play back.

75 The yards per game that defense gives up rushing per game. Much like the offense, the defense is at its best stopping the run. With Vai Lutui clogging up the middle and taking on extra blockers. This allows linebackers such as Arthur Brown to rush through the gaps and use his speed to run down any running back. If the Wildcats are able to slow down the running game of North Texas, it could be a long day for the Mean Green offense as they have not shown the ability to throw the ball throughout the season.

103 The number of points scored by K-State in the first two games. Last season, the Wildcats scored only 75 points in their three non-conference games. The Wildcats have already surpassed that by 28 points in one less game. Part of the reason for this explosion is because of the balance on the offensive end. Klein has thrown three touchdowns, as well as scored three more on the ground. Backup quarterback Daniel Sams has three rushing touchdowns, and Hubert has contributed two on the ground himself. The return game has also led to many scores. Tra- maine Thompson has taken a punt back, and Tyler Lockett set up an easy touchdown with a long return of his own. With so many guys on the field with the capabilities to make the big play, you never know when a Wildcat player is going to take it the distance.

North Texas Mean Green comes to Manhattan hungry for a victory



Tommy Theis | Collegian
Linebacker Arthur Brown chases down quarterback Stephen Morris for a huge third down sack. The Wildcats would hold Miami on fourth down and did not allow any points on the drive.

Corbin McGuire
staff writer

North Texas comes to Manhattan to play its second ranked opponent on Saturday when they take on the No. 15 K-State Wildcats. Coming off a 34-7 win over Texas Southern, the Mean Green will try to even up their record against ranked opponents to 1-1 against the Wildcats. The Mean Green opened up its season against the No. 3 LSU Tigers, but failed to pull off the upset, losing 41-14. North Texas' strength lies in the running game. Running for 352 yards against Texas Southern, the Mean Green featured two 100-yard rushers. Redshirt freshman Antoine Jimmer- son amounted for 139 of those yards on 15 carries while junior Brandin Byrd added 136 yards on 24 carries. "They are an athletic team. I think Coach McCarney, you guys are well aware of what he did at Iowa State," said Curry Sexton, sophomore wide receiver, "and they are a team that plays fast, plays tough and plays hard. They are not going to give you anything. It is going to be a battle." Another bright spot for the Mean Green is the offensive line that has gone all season without allowing a sack on 45 passing attempts. "Joe Bob Clements has mentioned that and that's obviously a significant challenge that has been presented," said Ryan Mueller, sophomore defensive end, of the Mean Green not allowing a sack this season. "We're going to have to study the tapes and try to find a way to overcome that and try to get to the quarterback." The Mean Green is especially young on defense, as they are one of four teams



photo courtesy of James Coreas | North Texas Daily
Mean Green defensive back Marcus Trice returns an interception in North Texas' 34-7 victory over Texas Southern on Sept. 8 in Denton, Texas.

in the nation without a senior in the secondary. Coming into the season, none of the four starters in the secondary had any starts under their belts. Zac Whitfield, redshirt freshman cornerback, has shown he is capable of making plays. Whitfield has nabbed two interceptions in two games, making him one of only two freshmen in the country with two interceptions through the first two weeks. "They have a lot of guys that can run," Sexton said. "They definitely have some speed, they have some size, and they have a pretty solid defensive line. They got talent across the board. They definitely have playmakers."

Bill Snyder will see a familiar face in North Texas' head coach Dan McCarney on Saturday when the two teams prepare for kickoff at 6 p.m. McCarney, who coached Iowa State from 1995-2006, is 2-9 against Snyder. His two wins over Snyder came in 2004 and 2005 with a 21-point average winning margin. McCarney also worked with Snyder, as both were assistants under Hall of Fame coach Hayden Fry at Iowa for 10 years. "I think that Dan is a tremendous coach, very talented, very bright," Snyder said. "He knows that they are going to do what it is that best suits the young people that they have in their program."



Tommy Theis | Collegian
Baton twirler Katelyn Bradbury, junior in kinesiology, performs on the field in Bill Snyder Family Stadium during K-State's game against Miami on Sept. 8.

MATCHING UP



K-State pass offense vs. North Texas pass defense

Despite only throwing the ball 11 times in the win over Miami, Collin Klein completed nine of those attempts for 210 yards. Klein is showing faith in all of his receivers, even looking for the tight ends down the middle of the field. The Wildcats still prefer to run the ball and dominate the line of scrimmage, but teams are not able to load up in the box.

The Mean Green have a redshirt freshman that is showing that he could become a big-time player in Zac Whitfield. Whitfield has two interceptions on the season, and is one of only two freshman to have two interceptions in the country. Whitfield stands at only 5 feet, 9 inches and weighs 180 pounds, and if matched up with the much bigger Chris Harper could have some problems.

With the continued progress of Klein throwing the ball, K-State's offense is becoming very tough to stop. Look for Klein to build off last week and have another efficient week passing the ball.

ADVANTAGE: K-STATE



K-State rush offense vs. North Texas rush defense

The Wildcats' bread-and-butter, the rush offense are extremely difficult to stop on the ground. With Collin Klein, John Hubert and Angelo Pease, the Wildcats are able to run the ball effectively up the gut, as well as running the option. If North Texas wants to win the game, they must be able to slow down the Wildcats' rushing attack.

In two games this season, the Mean Green have given up an average of 173.5 rushing yards per game, including 316 yards to LSU. The Tigers feature a running game much like K-State, except they do not use the quarterback as much as the Wildcats do.

With the way the Wildcats offensive line is block, look for the Klein and company to be able to do whatever they want to on the ground.

ADVANTAGE: K-STATE



North Texas pass offense vs. K-State pass defense

Much like the Wildcats, North Texas is going to look to run the ball. On the season, the Mean Green Mean's run to pass ratio is 1.89 to 1. When they do pass, quarterback Derek Thompson's favorite target is receiver Brelan Chancellor. Chancellor is 5 feet, 9 inches and weighs 183, and has the ability to make people miss in the open field.

If there has been a weakness on the K-State team, it has been their ability to stop the pass. The Wildcats have given up 272.5 yards a game in the air, but showed improvement against the Miami Hurricanes. With cornerbacks Allen Chapman and Nigel Malone, the potential is there is to have one of the best cornerback duos in the conference, they just need to continue to improve and limit the yards after catch.

With North Texas, they will try and pass the ball as little as possible. Thompson has only completed 42.2 percent of his passes. If the Wildcats force North Texas to throw the ball, look for Malone, Chapman or another member of the secondary to wreak some havoc and force multiple turnovers.

ADVANTAGE: K-STATE



North Texas rush offense vs. K-State rush defense

Two years ago, when the Mean Green played K-State, former running back Lance Dunbar rushed for 270 yards. This is a different team, but North Texas knows they must be able to run the ball against the Wildcats. Running back Brandin Byrd is coming off a strong performance, rushing the ball 24 times for 136 yards in the Mean Green 34-7 victory over Texas Southern. He must have this type of performance, as he goes up against a very tough rush defense.

With the fastest group of linebackers in the Big 12 Conference, if not the country, the Wildcats make it extremely tough to run against. The ground that Arthur Brown, Tre Walker and company are able to cover, it makes getting to the outside nearly possible. The only chance the Mean Green have of running the ball is to run north-and-south behind their massive and experienced line.

The Wildcats have only given up 75.5 rushing yards per game, and will make it extremely tough for North Texas to have success on the ground.

ADVANTAGE: K-STATE



Special teams

The K-State special teams unit is as good as there as any other team in the country, in all facets. The duo of Tramaine Thompson and Tyler Lockett are capable of taking a kick or punt for a touchdown at any given moment. Anthony Cantele and Ryan Doerr give the Wildcats consistency in the kicking game, and, except for the long return by Duke Johnson late in the fourth, the kickoff unit had one of the best performances in school history.

North Texas punter Will Atterberry does a great job of pinning the opponents deep in their own territory. In their win over Texas Southern, four of his six punts were downed inside the 20-yard line. It will be interesting to see how he punts the ball to the Wildcats.

As will be the case in almost every game, the Wildcats have the better special teams in every way imaginable.

ADVANTAGE: K-STATE



FINAL SCORE PREDICTION: 45-10

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Heisman watch



Matt Barkley looks to throw the ball as the USC Trojans play host to the to Arizona Wildcats on Oct. 1, 2011. Barkley threw for a school record 468 yards in the Trojans' 48-41 victory.

John Zetmeir
staff writer

With the season under-way, a batch of players seem to be separating themselves from the rest of the pack. These are the guys you know are going to make the big plays at key points of the game week in and week out. Here is a look at the team members that are separating themselves.

University of Southern California's senior quarterback Matt Barkley came into the season as the Heisman favorite and is currently living up to the hype. Through his first two games, Barkley has led the Trojans to a 2-0 record and has already thrown for 559 yards, including 10 touchdown passes.

Barkley led USC to easy victories against Hawaii University and Syracuse University in the team's first two wins. The first real test for this Heisman hopeful will come

this Saturday when USC takes on No. 21 ranked Stanford.

A player who is jumping up a lot of experts' Heisman watch lists is K-State senior quarterback Collin Klein. Klein, famous for his toughness and ability to run, has shown early signs of significant improvement from last season in his ability to throw the ball.

The K-State quarterback has completed 71.8 percent of his passes for 379 yards and three touchdown passes so far this season. However, Klein is still getting it done on the ground, scoring three rushing touchdowns in the Wildcats' 52-13 dismantling of the Miami Hurricanes.

The University of Oregon has had their fair share of explosive running backs through the years, and this year is no different. The Ducks' newest star, sophomore running back DeAnthony Thomas, fits the

mold of the Oregon running back to a T. The 5-foot-9-inch, 173-pound running back is one of the quickest and most elusive players in the country, and can hurt defenses with his ability to run and catch the ball.

As a freshman last year, Anthony complied over 1,200 all-purpose yards, including 18 total touchdowns. Through his first two games this season, Thomas has 166 rushing yards with three touchdowns on only 10 rushing attempts. However that is just one part of what makes Anthony an explosive all-around player. He has also caught eight passes for 81 yards and two touchdowns.

A player who is flying under the radar for a lot of college football fans is UCLA senior running back Johnathan Franklin. In his first three years with the Bruins, Franklin has compiled over 2,500 rushing yards with 18 touchdowns. Franklin has al-

ready rushed for 431 yards in his first two years of his senior campaign, including a big game last week that helped UCLA upset No. 16 ranked Nebraska.



Senior quarterback **Collin Klein** receives the snap and reads the defense as he runs the zone read against the Miami Hurricanes on Sept. 8 at Bill Snyder Family Stadium.

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0:53

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RAW: K-State ...

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Kansas State Lady...

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Snyder ‘very pleased’ with offense; team wants more



TOP: Running back John Hubert breaks a tackle on his way to a first down on Sept. 8 against the Hurricanes at Bill Snyder Family Stadium. ABOVE: Wide receiver Tyler Lockett looks to make a play against Miami on Sept. 8.

Nicholas Wahl
staff writer

The K-State offense got back to its proverbial roots during last Saturday's 52-13 drubbing of the Miami Hurricanes.

After spending much of their first game tossing the pigskin around against Missouri State the week before, the Wildcats piled up 288 yards rushing against the Hurricanes, only throwing the ball 11 times.

It was classic Bill Snyder football; an athletic quarterback pounding ahead on quarterback draws, running the option, handing off to a host of running backs and bludgeoning the opposition into submission. This all behind an offensive line that has gained notoriety in the opening weeks of the season.

K-State head coach Bill Snyder, never the itchy trigger-finger with compliments, was among those giving praise.

"We had some good and not so good plays, but they were competitive, spirited, and they fought the battle. I was very pleased," Snyder said.

Not only did the Wildcat front five manhandle the Miami defensive line, they did so while remaining relatively mistake-free mentally.

"They are doing well in that respect," said Snyder. "It defines a prominent amount of discipline, and I appreciate that a great deal. I think they are still a work in progress, but they have made headway. They are diligent about it. Coach Dickey does a wonderful job working with them, and they respond well. We must keep getting better because we have a long ways to go. I like the work habits. I like the attitude. I like their camaraderie. I like their togetherness and their passion for each other and the game. I like the way they respond to coaches. They are good guys."

That isn't to say that the passing was inefficient. Collin Klein was nearly flawless. He went 9 of 11 for 210 yards and a touchdown.

Klein did throw an interception though, not to mention the botched behind-the-back toss to Chris Harper on a reverse late in the first half. It was a performance that left Klein thirsting for more.

"We played well and better last week," Klein said. "There are some things that we have to work on. Again, we have not played our best game yet, and that is what we are trying to strive for. That is what we are trying to move toward. This is another opportunity to do that. We are just trying to get better and put another good leg in on the race."

Against North Texas, the Wildcat offense will face a Mean Green defense that gave up 316 yards rushing to No. 3 LSU, and has given up almost 5 yards per carry, on the season.

Those stats bode well for a repeat performance in the running game, but as Snyder told reporters what he told his players in a Tuesday press conference, it isn't about what the opponent is doing.

"It was not about Miami, it is not about North Texas, and it is not about anybody we play in the future; it is all about our youngsters, our coaches, our team and what we do day-in and day-out in preparation and nothing more than that," said Snyder.

This mentality showed as the Wildcats went to the ground from the onset against the Hurricanes, despite the Miami secondary allowing over 400 yards passing to Boston College the week before.

While the air attack we saw for much of the Missouri State game is unlikely, the coach did comment, if only humorously, on the lack of offensive balance against Miami. During the game, the Wildcats tallied 60 rushing attempts to only 11 passes.

So while the offensive attack that Snyder, whom ABC color commentator Bob Davie dubbed the "Scheme Doctor," and co-offensive coordinators Del Miller and Dana Dimel implement Saturday may be up in the air, the potential for an offensive explosion is grounded in empirical evidence.

On Saturday, the Wildcats became the first K-State team to score 50 or more points in its first two games of the season since the Michael Bishop-led squad of 1998.

On the occasion that the K-State offense gets off to a strong start, allowing the coaching staff to sit starters and give reserves valuable in-game experience, there still may be little rest for the weary.

The Wildcats have scored 56 fourth-quarter points in two games this season, including three touchdown runs by electric young quarterback Daniel Sams. If the Wildcats come out strong, Sams, who has created nearly as much Internet buzz as the "K-State Mask" with his highlight-reel play, *#Life* Twitter hashtags could see extended action on Saturday.

Increased QB pressure key for Wildcats



Senior safety Jarard Milo takes down a Miami player with the help of several teammates on Saturday at Bill Snyder Family Stadium.

Adam Suderman
staff writer

A growing emphasis on rushing the quarterback will be important for the Wildcats to maintain success on the national stage. K-State's ability to rush the passer faced plenty of skepticism throughout last season and after its season opener against Missouri State, questions remained high.

Despite a high completion percentage, the Wildcat defense kept Miami quarterback Stephen Morris moving and he was left unsettled for much of K-State's 52-13 victory.

Sacks can be a morale booster for a team, and head coach Bill Snyder saw the difference it made for the Wildcats against Miami.

"I think this last week, in

particular, it was a paramount issue," Snyder said. "It had a great deal of implication in regards to motivation for our players on both sides of the ball. We played with more spirit, passion and enthusiasm."

The sack can change momentum for the defense, and Snyder knows it can take the game to another level.

"The answer is obvious," said Snyder. "I think it provides greater confidence in our front four or front seven, and then to our defensive collectively. Whatever the total numbers are, part of that stems from what people call coverage sacks and the fact that your secondary and linebackers are well-adjusted in the coverage and the quarterback has to hold the ball a

little bit longer."

After hearing about the lack of quarterback pressure from the media, fans and coaches, players took note of the increased attention.

"We just got to know we can play with anybody," said senior defensive tackle Vai Lutui on Saturday. "If we come out knowing what we got to do to help out our defensive unit, then we just have to do it."

North Texas quarterback Derek Thompson has yet to be sacked this season, which looks even more impressive after playing against No. 3 LSU in the opening weekend of the season. An opportunity for a Mean Green victory may seem dim, but it doesn't decrease the preparation and execution of the defense.

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Games to watch: Tennessee may stop losing streak to Florida

Mark Kern
sports editor



ALABAMA AT ARKANSAS

In a game that was supposed to be one of the biggest games of the year, the Razorbacks look to save their season after being upset 34-31 at home by the University of Louisiana-Monroe. In the game, Arkansas was up 28-7 early in the third quarter, only to see the Warhawks' quarterback Kolton Browning account for 481 yards and four touchdowns, the last which was a 16-yard run for the win in overtime.

The Razorbacks lost quarterback Tyler Wilson to a head injury, and his status is unknown. Whether or not he is healthy, running back Knile Davis must have a huge game for the Razorbacks to have any chance of beating the No.1 ranked Crimson Tide.

Alabama has picked up right where they left off last year, outscoring opponents 76-14 in their first two games.

Quarterback AJ McCarron has moved from controlling the tempo, to going out there and winning games for his team. So far he has thrown for 418 yards and six touchdowns. If McCarron is able to continue to throw the ball like he is, the Crimson Tide will be extremely tough to beat because of their defense.

In front of their home crowd, Arkansas is going to come out inspired and determined to do whatever it can to pull out the win. In the end, look for the Alabama Crimson Tide to pull out a tougher than expected victory.



USC AT STANFORD

For as great as Matt Barkley has been in his career, the one team he has not been able to beat is Stanford. With Andrew Luck gone to the NFL, the chances for USC to get the win are much greater.

On the season, Barkley has thrown 10 touchdowns and only one interception. He has quite possibly the best two receivers in the country with Marquis Lee and Robert Woods. Add that with the new addition of Silas Redd, and the Trojans have the nation's most explosive offense. However, the defense has shown that they will give yards, and the best way to slow down an offense like USC is to control the clock and run the ball.

That is where Stepfan Taylor will be huge for the Cardinal to pull another upset over the Trojans.

Taylor is a great running back that gets stronger as the game goes on. His ability to control the ground and wear down the Trojan defense will be the key in determining the game. USC will probably load the box with eight to nine guys and force quarterback Josh Nunes to throw the ball.

If Nunes is able to get a couple of deep passes early and back the defense off, then the Cardinal have a shot at defeating USC.

In the end, USC is too explosive on offense and will finally get over the hump and defeat Stanford.



FLORIDA AT TENNESSEE

The Gators will look to continue their dominance over the Volunteers, as they have taken the last seven matchups. However, the Volunteers come into the game led by an explosive passing attack with playmakers all over the field.

Quarterback Tyler Bray is finally putting it together, and with receivers Justin Rogers and Cordarrelle Patterson, the Volunteers will give a very tough Florida defense fits. Both Rogers and Patterson stand at 6 feet 3 inches, and have the size and speed combination that forces opponents to have to keep their safeties back. Luckily for the Gators, they have the secondary that can battle this

receiving duo.

Sophomore cornerback Marcus Roberson appears ready to become a star. He was Rivals' No. 37 player in the 2011 class, and has all of the tools you want in a cornerback. He has the speed to be able to run with the Volunteer receivers, and could be a key in deciding the game.

After being defeated by the Gators seven consecutive times, the Volunteers are ready to break through and return back to national prominence. Expect to hear "Rocky Top" play numerous times throughout the day, as Bray and his receivers end the streak by defeating the Gators by double digits.



NOTRE DAME AT MICHIGAN STATE

As has been the case during the past few seasons, Notre Dame has gotten off to a quick start and moved up in the rankings. They are looking to avoid the collapses from the past as they travel to East Lansing to take on Michigan State.

Despite the return and the heroics of quarterback Tommy Rees, Everett Golson will still get the starting nod at the quarterback position.

Golson injured his thumb in last week's game, and Rees led the Irish on their game-winning drive, capped by a field goal with seven seconds left to prevail 20-17. However, they must play better, as they are going into a very hostile crowd and a dangerous team in Michigan State.

Despite losing a lot of talent on offense, the Spartans still have a very good teammate in Heisman candidate running back Le'Veon Bell.

After rushing for 210 yards in the season opener, Bell only rushed for 70 in last week's win, but that was because of their resounding 41-7 win over Central Michigan.

Bell is a monster at 6 foot, 2 inches and 244 pounds, and is able to both run over and away from the defenders. Notre Dame must gang-tackle him if they want to slow him down, because one guy is not able to take him down on a consistent basis.

This is the type of game that Notre Dame coach Brian Kelly desperately needs to take his team to the next level. Unfortunately, it will not happen in East Lansing as Bell will be too much for the Notre Dame defense as Michigan State will win a hard-fought game late in the fourth quarter.

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